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## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

## (PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference  NV-008PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION      See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No.  PCT/US03/27795	International filing date (day/month/year)  05 September 2003 (05.09.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year)  06 September 2002 (06.09.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC  IPC(7): G01R 27/26; G05B 1/00 and US Cl.: 324/661, 683		
Applicant  INVISA, INC.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

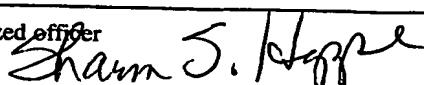
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of    sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I  Basis of the report
- II  Priority
- III  Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV  Lack of unity of invention
- V  Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI  Certain documents cited
- VII  Certain defects in the international application
- VIII  Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand  01 April 2004 (01.04.2004)	Date of completion of this report  30 April 2004 (30.04.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US  Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer N. Le  Telephone No. (571) 272-2233

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/27795

## I. Basis of the report

## 1. With regard to the elements of the international application:\*

the international application as originally filed.  
 the description:

pages 1-11 as originally filed  
 pages NONE, filed with the demand  
 pages NONE, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

the claims:  
 pages 12-17 as originally filed  
 pages NONE, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19  
 pages NONE, filed with the demand  
 pages NONE, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

the drawings:  
 pages 1, as originally filed  
 pages NONE, filed with the demand  
 pages NONE, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

the sequence listing part of the description:  
 pages NONE, as originally filed  
 pages NONE, filed with the demand  
 pages NONE, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item. These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language \_\_\_\_\_ which is:

the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).  
 the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).  
 the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

## 3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

contained in the international application in printed form.  
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.  
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.  
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4.  The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages NONE  
 the claims, Nos. NONE  
 the drawings, sheets/fig NONE

5.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).\*\*

\* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

\*\* Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US03/27795

## V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

## 1. STATEMENT

Novelty (N)

Claims 1-20 YESClaims NONE NO

Inventive Step (IS)

Claims 1-20 YESClaims NONE NO

Industrial Applicability (IA)

Claims 1-20 YESClaims NONE NO

## 2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Claims 1-20 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(4), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a capacitive sensing system and method having a field generator signal counter operative to receive and store the first digital values from a reference signal counter, and operative to begin counting down from said first digital values at each new cycle of the sensing field signal, and operative to continue counting down until said field generator signal counter equals to zero or until a new cycle ends, and operative to count to a second digital value that corresponds to the difference between the number of digital pulses occurring during the new cycle and the value stored in the reference signal counter, as recited in the independent claims 1, 19, and in combination of the claims.